**Grade 10 Writing Assignment: Shakespearean English in the Modern World**

Ms. Stiles English 10

*Writing outcome: 8.3 – Students will choose language that creates interesting and imaginative effects.*

*Writing outcome: 9.1 – Students will demonstrate skills in constructing a range of texts for a variety of audiences and purposes.*

Students will craft a one-page, single-spaced modern event using Shakespearean English. You may choose from one of the following:

1. Using Shakespearean English and the script format of writing, write a conversation between two characters from television or movies. Check with me about your character choice before you begin.

2. Using Shakespearean English, write a sports commentary and/or play-by-play between two commentators of one of the following:

* Hockey game
* Football
* Basketball
* Baseball
* Dance, etc.

3. Using Shakespearean English, write up the script for the *News*. Include an introduction and conclusion. You may consider covering the following items:

* World News
* Canadian News
* Sports Report
* Fashion Report
* Weather Report

4. In Shakespearean English, write the script for a 60-second commercial spot for radio in which you advertise an item. Here are some examples:

* A water bed
* An apartment condominium
* Pain reliever
* Honeymoon retreat
* Any other product you wish—just check with me first.

An example assignments appear on the next page.

**Criteria for Success:**

* The format and length are appropriate (2 points)
* The word choice mimics examples covered in class (Review your six strategies for decoding Shakespearean language) (6 points)
* The assignment fits the format of a script (setting, stage directions included) (3 points)
* The topic is original, well-organized, and detailed (6 points)
* The piece has been edited for spelling/grammar (3 points)

This assignment is due on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Assignment Exemplar #1**

**Product: *MACBANISH***

A commercial for *Macbanish*—a new pain reliever, written in Shakespearean English.

**Setting: The private chambers of a couple.**

HUSBAND: Ooh, me achin’ temple of thought.

WIFE: It cannot be so bad.

HUSBAND: The hurt is not as high as a mountain nor as deep as the sea, but marry, ‘tis enough.

WIFE: Thou are at fault for thy suffering. Thou know’st what happens when you and Julius draw cards for a match of poker.

HUSBAND: Speak clearly, wife!

WIFE: Methinks mine husband drank a few too many Caesars with Julius!

HUSBAND: I need no lectures. Let me consort with Brutus; let me be put to death.

WIFE: Be a man and cease this anguish that thou art whipped and tormented by.

HUSBAND: Fie, my grave awaits and thou cares not.

WIFE: M’lord, I dost care for thee. This is the reason I went forth to the local apothecary one fortnight ago, for I knew what was to come after the feast.

HUSBAND: Me death hath come.

WIFE: Thou art wrong. I have bought, on sale, for only three ducats, some thing that will prevent thy evil fate.

HUSBAND: How now, woman?

WIFE: Here, take this vial of *Macbanish* and end your misery.

HUSBAND: (*swallowing liquid*) My wife doth speak goodly truths. My hurt is slain and laid away in a monument, never more to afflict me. By my troath, *Macbanish* is truly wondrous!

ANNOUNCER: Makest certain thou art armed against a villainous headache. Exile thy pain with *Macbanish*. *Macbanish* is odourless, tasteless, and now comes in easy to swallow capulets!

**Assignment Exemplar #2**

**Product: *Gillette Pro-Glide***

A commercial for *Gillette Pro-Glide* —a razor, written in Shakespearean English.

**Setting: The private chambers of a couple.**

HUSBAND: Ouch! Thy foul blade hath cutteth me again! Oust with you.

WIFE: It be time for thee to acquire a new blade methinks.

HUSBAND: No, thy blade be a gift from thy ancestors.

WIFE: But it cutteth you, my dear.

HUSBAND: Shiistor, I’ll have it brought to the smith for sharpening!

WIFE: It cutteth you more!

**1 Day Later**

HUSBAND: Ouch! It cutteth me more!

WIFE: Me told you, require a new blade.

**2 Days Later**

HUSBAND: My wife, thou art right, this blade works good.

WIFE: Mayhaps you should listen to women more.

ANNOUNCER: If you suffereth from the pain of poor blades, try all NEW Gillette Pro-Glide: glides for no tug or pulling and especially cutting.



 

